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BBI Alumni News, December 1953

Baptist Bible Institute of Cleveland

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BBI ALUMNI NEWS

DECEMBER, 1953

 * ALUMNI *
 * ASSOCIATION MID-YEAR *
 * SOCIAL-GET-TOGETHER *
 * AT JIM JOHNSON'S *
 * CEDARVILLE, OHIO *
 * TIME: 7:30 P.M. *
 * DATE: JANUARY 29, 1954 *
 * Plan to be there and enjoy *
 * this fellowship together. *

Cedarville, Ohio

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Greetings in our Saviour's Name!

The Lord has truly blessed and provided for our every need since graduating from B.B.I. last June. Since I felt led to continue on in school and receive a liberal arts education the Lord has provided a home for our family here in Cedarville and we are now enjoying the blessings of attending a Christian college.

This past semester has been one of joyfulness as we walk over the 15 acre campus which God has so wonderfully provided by His providence. This issue of the Alumni News contains a short description of the fire which destroyed Hough church so you can see how God "works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform", in providing for the need even before it was needed.

There are 105 students attending day school and about 50 in evening school which is a good beginning toward a capacity enrollment. Bob

McGrew, '53, is also attending college and has about one year to finish before going on to Seminary

Martha Hall, who graduated in June 1953, felt led to continue on as Librarian and has accomplished the Herculean task of moving all the library books from B.B.I. and re-arranging them in an excellent Library in Cedarville. She has labored many hours accomplishing a well arranged library for the convenience of the students.

During my travels this summer I stopped by Winona Lake, Indiana, and visited with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Noffsinger, '50, also Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butrin. The Noffsingers have built a lovely home in nearby Warsaw, Indiana, while completing work at the Grace Theological Seminary. Charles Butrin is putting the finishing touches on church furniture while getting the finishing touches on his education at Grace also.

School chapel periods are being held in the college gym and church services are being held on the campus both morning and evening. May God continue to bless Cedarville Baptist College and Bible institute as He has this past year. Continue to pray that God's blessing may rest upon the school and may each student and Alumni be a Testimony for His Name.

Yours by His Grace

Jim Johnson, '53
 Alumni President

If you enjoy reading the letters contained in this News-letter remember that every other Alumni is interested in hearing from you also. Write concerning your activities since leaving B.B.I.

Max Tucker, Chalk Artist, and a recent graduate of B.B.I. writes the following letter explaining how God has led in opening a new work in Newark, Ohio:

Dear Friends in Christ,

It was with fear and trembling, Sunday, August 9th., that my wife and I, and Dick and Shirley Johnson, opened the doors of the only Fundamental Bible believing Baptist Church in Newark, Ohio. Newark is a city of 36,000 people.

After tramping the streets for two weeks we found a very good building in which to hold our services. It had both an auditorium and Sunday School rooms. We then borrowed one hundred chairs, a pulpit, and were given a piano that was in very good condition. Our first day's services was a blessed one and we truly felt the presence of God. We had a total of 35 in attendance. Our rent was paid and we were in the service of the King. We now have most of our own chairs paid for also. Dick Johnson, class of '53, made a nice pulpit. He and his wife have worked with us from the beginning to help get the work started and now to help keep it going.

As to our weekly attendance, it has been up and down since we opened, but we have felt God in it all the way. Our second Sunday in our evening evangelistic service our first convert for Jesus Christ came forward. Last Sunday evening, Sept. 21, we had a wonderful attendance and two came forward to accept Christ as Saviour.

God has also given us the opportunity to open a small country church 10 miles from Newark, and we are having good times as well.

It is not easy to start a new work, but it is wonderful to see God work, bless, and answer prayer. Truly, we have been and still are depending upon Philippians 4:19 and God has supplied both the needs of the church and ourselves.

Yours for Souls,
Max E. Tucker
Class of '53

The following portion of a letter written by a former evening student describes the fire which destroyed Hough Church and former educational building for B.B.I.

"About four o'clock on the Sunday morning of August 23, our Hough Ave. Baptist Church was ablaze and burned for several hours, until only the walls remained. It was an awful sight to behold, in the otherwise quiet hours of a Sunday morning, and on a day which had been designated as MISSIONARY SUNDAY. It is believed that the fire was caused by a short circuit somewhere in the organ, which was undergoing repairs. The damage was estimated at approximately \$250,000, and the insurance was \$110,000. Since the walls remained standing, we will be fortunate to collect even half the amount of this policy.

The Lord in His infinite grace and mercy saw to it that all Sunday School and Church records were salvaged--all choir music that was out of print was saved, and every replaceable piece destroyed--our missionary map was untouched, a solemn reminder that our responsibility to those on the foreign field still remained--the Aquilan room itself was undamaged either by fire or by water. Over all tho' it was a sickening sight, and looked as if a bomb had torn out the whole interior of the building, for the blazing roof dropped right down on the auditorium, and there was such heat that the firemen could not even enter. Needless to say, our congregation had mixed emotions that morning, but as the Lord provided for our every need, our faith mounted up as the hours passed by....."

DO YOU PRAY DAILY FOR THE OTHER
ALUMNI?

Charles Moore, '51, thrilled our hearts as he spoke in chapel one morning in November concerning their call to the mission field. Below is a short statement which was obtained before he and his wife hurriedly left for a Mid-missions conference.

"Came to Pastor Jennings Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri in Nov. 1952. The Lord has blessed the work here and has given us about 50 additional members in the past year.

At a summer camp in Lake Bloomington, Illinois, the Lord began to speak to our hearts about Foreign missions. Now if we are approved by Mid-Missions we plan to go to Liberia, Africa in 1954. Pray for us that the Lord's will will be done."

The latest word is that Charles Moore and his wife have been accepted as candidates under Mid-Missions. Continue to pray for this couple as they wait upon the Lord for His leading and guidance while looking forward to a needy field.

NOTICE

Your name and address has been submitted to the office of the college so that you may receive a copy of each publication of the school paper the TESTIMONY. Please keep in contact with the school concerning any changes in your address so you may continue being informed of the activities around the school.

DUES! DUES! DUES!

Are you a member of the ALUMNI ASSOCIATION? Here is your membership blank.

MEMBERSHIP BLANK

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Fill out this membership blank and mail with your dues (\$1.00) to Rev. Charles Noffsinger, Treasurer, R.R. 3 North Parker St. Warsaw, Indiana.

1851 Belmore Road
Cleveland 12, Ohio

Dear Alumni;

Greetings in the Name of our wonderful Saviour!

Although many of you have neither seen me nor heard from me does not mean that I have forgotten you. Even though we are miles apart, we are brought nigh through the medium of prayer. Truly my prayer for each of you is found in Philippians 3:10 "That I (ye) may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death".

On September 7, 1953, I suddenly found myself transplanted from a Christian environment to a dormitory entirely different from the Baptist Bible Institute dormitory. You see, that evening I had moved into the Nurses' Home at Huron Road Hospital. After completing my training at B.B.I., the Lord definitely lead me into the field of medicine, that I might more effectively serve Him as a medical missionary. For months I prayed concerning my roommate. The Lord gave me one who is not a Christian, but she at least doesn't smoke. Pray with me that she will come to know and love our Saviour.

As far as the studies are concerned, I am just finding out the meaning of the word "study"! The work is extremely difficult. We have most of our major classes at Western Reserve and the practical lessons are taught at the hospital. Several of our students have already left, but I am relying on Philippians 4:13. There is some opportunity to witness to my patients while I am on floor duty.

We often take the blessings of Christian fellowship for granted. There is no one here with whom I may have fellowship. I praise the Lord for the Woodby family and their little Baptist Church. At first our study hours included Sunday (Continued next page)

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evenings, but now my restrictions have been lifted so that I can go to church at night.

I am continually rejoicing because of the training I received at B.B.I. It would be very difficult for a Christian to stand without being grounded in the Word. Do pray with me that in word and deed I may be what He would have me be. There is a vast mission field here. My heart aches for those who are living in sin with no concern for their soul's salvation.

Yours in Him,

Helen Wellman

Helen Wellman is also acting as a reporter in the Cleveland area besides her school duties. If you are living in the Cleveland area or ever visit Cleveland, please contact Helen and give her any information concerning the Alumni.

This Alumni News-letter is your paper and any suggestions for improving or enlarging the news will be greatly appreciated.

GOD'S VIOLIN

I am no Stradivarius,
No clear-toned instrument of song.
My humble strings are at a loss
To sing with sweet, melodic tongue.

Yet when I make God's bow my own,
My shabby little tunes are still.
He tucks me underneath His chin
And plays His music on my soul.

Joy Taylor '49

Whatever your lot may be -- build something on it!

NEWS FROM "MA & PA" O'Dell

Route # 2
Burdett, West Virginia

Dear Friends of the Alumni:

What a joy it was to fellowship with Dr. and Mrs. Webster at the state meeting of the GARB in Charleston, West Virginia in Nov. and to hear of the continued blessings at Cedarville. God's hand is surely on the school, leading step by step. We spoke to them of our problems in this field, but as Jim Johnson asked us to do so again to the Alumni we will briefly attempt to do so here.

As I wrote in a former letter, modernism and baptismal regeneration are the creeds in this whole area, or perhaps I should say in the entire state. As these folk are thoroughly convinced that they are right and oppose strenuously anything different, our problems are multiplied. The worst part of it is that they are good people who are sincere in their belief that they are right and that anyone teaching otherwise is a false prophet, hence is teaching the doctrine of devils. Anger is impossible to entertain towards them, but instead a heavy burden weighs upon our hearts as to how to approach them with the blessed truths of God's Word.

Believing that grace plus nothing is the sole basis of salvation, and believing that when one is saved they can know it beyond the shadow of a doubt, is rank heresy to them and to be shunned with all diligence. They believe that the latter doctrine is a license to sin instead of the motivating force to godly living. They also believe that both of us are lost because we were not saved in a certain church. As I said, anger towards them is impossible, but what is needed is more and more

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(Cont'd)

love for them. Pray much with us that our approach may be one of love and that our lives lived before them may be such as to point the way to true faith in God and to a joyful knowledge that they may know that they are children of God after accepting Christ as their Saviour. A great many of them are saved, but are miserable because they are not sure of it from one day until the next. We are avoided somewhat by some who think we are false prophets. Pray too that we may break this resistance down. We are even called Communists by a few.

This work has gone from bad to worse for a number of years, with workers leaving in discouragement, thus leaving the work without an undershepherd, resulting in the scattering of the flock. Many have gone into other churches, leaving us with a mere handful with which to work. We are gaining ground slowly because of the opposition, but God has seen fit to give us some fruit, several having come to know Christ in the past months. Some of these at least are growing in the things of the Lord with a good public testimony and little boys of eight, nine and ten, praying in public and testifying to their school friends.

The only place available in which to worship is so small that it only seats about forty persons. Hence, the need of a larger place and one of our very own is imperative. As there was already \$2000. set aside for building, we are attempting to build a small church. That small sum sounds like we are very optimistic indeed, but by using some used lumber, and by the reduction of some \$60.00 on the dimension material by a Christian lumberman, plus doing practically

all the work ourselves, we believe that we can do so by a very narrow margin. If not, we can wait for the asbestos siding until next year. Ground was broken for the little church December 5th and the two of us have been busy every day since, digging footings, pouring concrete, laying blocks, etc. The reason for the late start was again opposition to our buying a lot, but God answered prayer, and when all doors seemed closed to our building a church, marvelously opened the door for a lot just outside the village of Hundred. As the few men of the church have jobs and can only work on Saturdays (two grown men are the only ones available, the others being ill or too young), thus, most of the hard work will be up to the two of us. Again, God has been good, keeping the weather such that the concrete has not frozen. Pray much that God will protect our health and give us added strength for the task before us. We are no longer youngsters, but God is able to sustain all who trust Him.

Yours in Jesus Name,

Rev. and Mrs. Dewey
O'Dell '52

ALUMNI LETTERS!

Mail all replies and letters to:

JAMES R. JOHNSON
CEDARVILLE BAPTIST COLLEGE
CEDARVILLE, OHIO

Include:

Prayer requests,
Address changes,
Notes of Praise for God's blessing,
Whatever God has placed upon your heart.

Pray for Cedarville Baptist
College and Bible Institute!

A letter from you may bring joy
and blessings to others.